

# The Washington Times

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## Mr. McClatchy's Sacramento Bee Pities Us in Washington

We Accept the Pity and Thank Mr. McClatchy for It. But We Assure the Sacramento Bee That Washington Will Not Be "The Dog" Permanently.

The people of Washington will be interested in the view of "VOTELESS WASHINGTON," as presented on the editorial page of the Sacramento Bee.

We must tell our friend, the Bee, on behalf of Washington, however, that the trouble is not entirely with Congressmen and others that enjoy making experiments on the Nation's Capital.

There is another trouble plainly expressed by Mr. Champ Clark in his letter to this newspaper. MONEY DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON TO VOTE. Men that vote can interfere with plans of inefficient, corrupt, highly profitable corporations. They can even secure real efficiency through PUBLIC OWNERSHIP of public monopolies.

That is the point for Washington to remember. And here is the very interesting editorial from the Sacramento Bee:

### WASHINGTON CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE THE SUFFRAGE.

Arthur Brisbane in the Washington Times has inaugurated a crusade for the extension of suffrage to the men and women of the District of Columbia.

It is an anomaly in this land to see hundreds of thousands of good American citizens deprived of the right to vote.

The people of Washington have no voice in the government of that city. It is governed by a commission appointed by Congress in one way, although Congress is the real governor.

This was shown in the recent passage of a prohibition law for the Capital of this great nation—a law enacted by Congress against the wishes of probably a great

majority of the citizens of Washington.

As a prominent resident there told the writer a year or so ago, Washington is the "dog" upon which Congress and the Commission first try all sorts of ordinance fads.

The gentleman from Texas or the commissioner from Spodunk tells the Washingtonians how they must live, and eat, and drink, and the Washingtonians have no more voice in the matter than a yellow dog in a pound.

It is a peculiar condition of affairs, to say the least—a condition which would be outrageous if the shame of it were not softened by its ridiculous side.

## This Minneapolis Lady Rode In a Washington Street Car

She Writes Six Pages About It. She Might Have Written Sixty, and She Has Our Sympathy.

We have said that the shameful street car service of Washington injures everybody, PARTICULARLY THE MERCHANT.

A poor street car system, difficulty in traveling, in reaching the business center, mean diminished business and prosperity, no matter how energetic the merchants or how great the values they offer.

The street car system that voteless Washington endures because it cannot help itself injures the city as a whole, in discouraging visitors.

We publish here extracts from a letter written by a lady whose home is in Minneapolis, and who is just at present at 516 Cedar street, Takoma Park. Her name is Ana Thomas—the first time we have ever seen it spelled with one "n."

We ask those that are interested in the welfare of Washington—which does not include the street car management—to read this extract from the letter of a woman who comes to Washington, spends her money here, and who when she returns will give her circle of friends an impression of Washington based largely, not on the magnificence of the city, but on the shameful inefficiency of the street car system.

Read this carefully, for it interests every merchant, every hotel and boarding house keeper, every property owner in Washington.

### From a Minneapolis Lady

516 Cedar Street,  
Takoma Park,  
August 15, 1917.

Mr. Arthur Brisbane, The Washington Times:

Dear Sir:—

This is the wail of a woman from out of the West, from the prairies of Minnesota. It has been suggested that I raise the wail loud enough to reach your ears, and that possibly you may waft some small echo of it to "the powers that be."

I am a visitor from Minneapolis. Never before have I been East, and when I reached Washington, it seemed as if I had arrived at some wonderful world's fair. I succumbed immediately to the fascination of it. All eagerness I was to begin sight-seeing, and begin I did, without delay.

But somehow, when I am compelled to board a Washington street car, a wee bit of the joy of sight-seeing ebbs away. And one day during the heat of two weeks ago, all the joy disappeared, and then the wail arose.

I know nothing of round wheels or square ones, of brakes or cogs, but, at the risk of sacrificing the courtesy expected of visitors, I cannot refrain from a whispered aside, "We do have some street cars in Minneapolis." Many, many times during the past two weeks,

the memory of our most excellent electric railway system "back home," has been in my mind, and, oh, why can't Washington have one just like it?

It was the end of a hot, wearying day. I was very tired. When I reached Ninth street for my transfer, I was deposited in the midst of many cars and many people. In Minneapolis, we would call it a congestion. Long, long minutes I waited. Two lengthy intersecting lines of cars moved with deliberation. Finally, a Takoma Park car crept forward. The process of packing it had been completed some time previously. But in desperation, I boarded it, as I am not very big. The space allowed me for standing room, was a circle about thirty-four inches in diameter. This space was at the end, and I was permitted to brace myself against the wall. With the utmost deliberation, we ambled along, or went grinding along, or thumping along, a carload of steaming humans, packed neatly for delivery some time during the evening. At every corner, we lurched forward for a stop, backward for a fresh start. After an interminable succession of lurching and bumping against our long suffering neighbors, we wended our way into Takoma Park, overcome with a strange weariness of soul.

# WASHINGTON TIMES

## Do You DIG---Or Chase Butterflies?



Here, young man, is a picture, a sermon, and a question for you to answer. As you answer this question, so time will answer your question, "Shall I be successful or unsuccessful in life?"

Chasing butterflies, dreams, fancies, pleasure, is cheerful work. You dart here and there, going nowhere in particular. You breathe the fresh air, you see the butterfly's pretty wings, but when you catch it—IT ISN'T WORTH HAVING.

Digging is dull, hard work. You bend over, you sweat, your back aches, your legs are tired and your head is dull. But, DIGGING IS WORTH WHILE. For anything worth while that you get, you must DIG.

We ask fathers and mothers who read the SUNDAY TIMES in the evening to hand this picture to the young boy with a few words of earnest comment. Sometimes one picture is worth many words, it goes straight to the brain and causes EARNEST THOUGHT.

## OH! FOR A GUN

If only the men and the women of Washington, with their votes, could fire about one hundred thousand shots at these sharks. There is the street car shark, that makes the entire population uncomfortable and damages business every day, discouraging travel.

There is the impure milk shark, badly in need of shooting. There is the toothless, water-eyed, foolish prohibition

shark, forced upon the city of Washington against its will, to injure the city, keep away visitors, make others leave as quickly as possible, and make this city, visited by representatives of all countries, ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

Sooner or later, however, and SOONER if we can help it along, the men and women of Washington will each have a voting gun and the political waters will be considerably improved.



lady from Minneapolis. One sample is sufficiently humiliating to Washington. She concludes her letter:

And so, Mr. Editor, if I could speak for just a few minutes to the men who control the fate of the Washington street railway system, I would summon my most gracious manner and I would say: "Please, please, dear sirs, when we humble tourists come again, may we not have just a little more comfort, a little more speed, in return for our nickels? We would be very grateful. And, if it is not asking too much, we would indeed enjoy riding in cars just like the ones 'back home' in Minneapolis."

Yours very truly,

ANA THOMAS.

To this lady we offer the thanks of Washington for her letter. The city apparently needs to be told in plain English what sort of welcome it gives its visitors, so far as public service corporations are concerned.

In justice to the citizens of Washington, we say this:

Dear Mrs. Thomas:

When you think of "back home in Minneapolis," remember that you are speaking of a part of the United States in which CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE.

Please be sure that if the people of Washington could vote they would not be taking such street car rides as that so vividly described by you.

Do not be surprised that corporations do as they please,

when the public is deprived of its only weapon of defense—the vote.

If the men and women that were packed in that street car with you, and all their fellow-citizens, could vote, as they should do, you would find on your next visit to Washington round wheels on the cars and MORE cars on the streets, more thought about the public and less about dividends.

Do not be discouraged, however, and please tell your friends that Washington, the world's most beautiful city, is not to be always known as the "Voteless—Stand-up-for-you-can't-sit-down-in-the-cars" city.

The people here will vote. The inhabitants of the Nation's Capital will not forever live as men live in State's prison, governed from above with no word of their own.

Washington will vote, and one of the first things to be done with the vote will be to bring about PUBLIC OWNERSHIP, beginning with the street cars and passing on to the electric light companies, gas companies and other institutions that have had such a pleasant time robbing VOTELESS TOWN.

## The Duty of a Just Government

We present to our readers, with great pleasure, Mr. McAdoo's admirable statement, concerning the justice of reasonable exemption for married men, and the value of the efficient insurance plan to substitute fair and certain compensation for uncertain, guesswork pension. THE TIMES.

W. G. McADOO,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

By W. G. McADOO,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

The number of claims for exemption from military duty under the draft law has caused a painful impression in many quarters, but after all, does not the fact that no provision has yet been made by the Government for the support of the wives and children, mothers or fathers, of the men who have been drafted explain many of these claims for exemption?

Under the draft law the Government has the power to require every able-bodied man between twenty-one and thirty-one years of age to perform military duty. Thousands of the drafted men are wage-earners who married years ago and are the sole support of dependent families. So long as the Government has made no provision for the care of these dependents, it is natural that such drafted men should seek to protect their loved ones by staying at home. I am sure that if the Congress should promptly enact the pending war insurance bill, which makes definite allowance for the support of the dependent wives and children, fathers or mothers, of our soldiers, and also for the support of the dependent wives and children of the wage-earner by forcing him into the military service of the country unless the Government substitutes itself as their support.

Loved Ones Left Without Support.

Imagine the emotions of the man who is called into the military service of his country with full knowledge that his loved ones are left without means of support, and may be reduced to want unless the charity of the community in which they live comes to their relief. It would be nothing less than a crime for a rich and just Government to treat its fighting men so heartlessly and to subject their dependent wives and children, who are unable to fight, to greater suffering than if they could fight.

The morale of an army is as essential to its effective fighting power as guns, ammunition, and other instrumentalities of war. Of equal importance is the morale of the civil population which must support the armies in the field. We cannot have this essential morale unless the nation comforts the men in the ranks with the knowledge that everything possible will be done for them and their families, and renders to the civil population at home the assistance which will make it most effective in upholding the Government and the fighting forces.

The purpose of the war insurance bill now pending in the Congress is to secure the future of America's soldiers and sailors by insuring their lives and providing adequate compensation and indemnities for loss of life and total or partial permanent disability; also to protect their families against poverty and want by providing them with sufficient means of support during the absence of the men at the front.

The nation, having been forced to resort to the draft in order to create quickly an army to save the country, is under a higher obligation to do these things for its fighting forces than if a volunteer army only was created.

When we draft the wage-earner, we call not only him but the entire family to the flag; the sacrifice entailed is not divisible. The wife and children, the mother, the father, are all involved in the sacrifice—they directly share the burden of defense.

We have drawn the sword to vindicate America's violated rights, to restore peace and justice, and to secure the progress of civilization. We cannot permit our soldiers, while they hold the front, to be stabbed in the back by uncertainty as to what is being done for their loved ones at home. Our tomorrow is in their hands—theirs in ours.

Providing For The Injured.

Aside from the care and protection of their dependents while the soldier is alive, the proposed war insurance act provides for definite compensation for his dependents in case of death, for definite and adequate indemnities in case of total or partial disability, and for re-education of the maimed and disabled man, so that he may take up a new occupation and make himself a useful member of society. We must restore their efficiency and adjust their still avail-

able faculties and functions to suitable trades and vocations, which the injuries of the battlefield have not wholly destroyed. The heavy depletions in man power resulting from this conflict, which is without precedent in history or imagination, will place new and greater values upon all forms and degrees of human energy, and demand as a first duty of intelligent government that every remaining useful sense and limb of the blind and crippled shall be reclaimed under the benevolent processes of education and reapplied to economic uses for the benefit of society. The millions we shall be called upon to spend to support the dependents of the soldiers while they are in the fighting line, for indemnities and for re-education of the crippled, are in the last analysis investments of the best sort; they are sums of capital advanced by the nation to promote utility, self-respect and economic development. 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